



**COUNTRY CODE STANDARDIZATION  
WITHIN  
THE DOD and INTEL COMMUNITY  
STANDARDS COORDINATING COMMITTEE**

**4 May 2000**



# Purpose

- To obtain consensus that FIPS PUB 10-4 is the preferred standard for use in depicting Country Codes in imagery, imagery intelligence, and geospatial information
  - (FIPS PUB) 10-4, "Countries, Dependencies, Areas of Special Sovereignty, and Their Principal Administrative Divisions", dated April 1995, with 4 Change Notices through February 2000
  - SCC vote on retention of FIPS PUB 10-4 in the JTA



# NIMA Recommendations

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- Tabled the issue at the 28 Feb 2000 SCC as a heads up discussion on the issue (completed 28 Feb 2000)
  - Provide adequate time to SCC representatives to coordinate C/SA positions (45+ days - completed)
- Specific motion: Move that the SCC consider the three options and vote accordingly to dispose the issue of Country Code Standardization for the 4 May 2000 meeting.



# SCC Options

- a. Migrate FIPS PUB 10 digraphs into ISO 3166 and establish a US Government presence in the ISO committee to manage US Government interests. Recommend the US Board on Geographic Names serve as the representatives. Recommend ISO digraphs and trigraphs be used by DoD/IC systems.
- b. Establish separate data elements for "national codes" for use by DCID 1/7 Security Release attribution of DoD/IC data based upon the internationally accepted ISO 3166 Country Codes. Restrict the DoD/IC use of ISO 3166 codes to Security Release information only. Maintain the use of FIPS PUB 10 digraphs for all legacy and future DoD/IC data where geographical or geo-political metadata is required.
- c. Use only FIPS PUB 10 digraph Country Codes for all uses; curtail and rescind any use of ISO 3166 Country Codes for any purpose.



# Back-Up Slides

- 1) Title of Action Item: Country Code Standardization
- (2) Action Item sponsor: Gordon C. Ferrari, (703) 262-4417 com tel, DSN 813-0817, National Imagery & Mapping Agency, 12310 Sunrise Valley Drive, Reston, VA 20191-3449, ferrarig@nima.mil, (703) 262-4401 (fax)
- (3) Background/Description of issue: It Standards Area.  
The use of Country Codes in geospatial, imagery, and other DoD/IC databases has traditionally been tied to an encoding of metadata based upon either DIA Manual 65-18, "Geopolitical Data Elements and Related Features", or the Federal Information Processing Standard Publication (FIPS PUB 10), "Countries, Dependencies, Areas of Special Sovereignty, and their Principal Administrative Divisions". The underlying standard for codes published in DIAM 65-18 was FIPS PUB 10, a 2 alpha-character sets, or digraph.



# Back-up Slides

The recent introduction of Country Codes contained in ISO 3166, "Codes for Representation of Names of Countries and Their Subdivisions" by the Director Central Intelligence Directive 1/7 marks a new and different use of Country Codes as Security Release Codes for intelligence data.

Database standards and specifications have been designed to conform to a 2 character fixed length data field to contain this information. Expansion of the metadata standards from 2 characters (digraphs) to 3 characters (trigraphs) is disruptive to existing data and systems already fielded. It presents a significant interoperability potential among DoD/IC systems and unnecessary significant costs to systems.

Confusion surrounds the use of both FIPS 10 and ISO 3166 Country Codes. Thus, the SCC needs to decide for which purpose FIPS 10 and ISO 3166 may be used within the DoD and provide guidance to the Joint Technical Architecture Development Group for proper implementation guidance.